

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9587

INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJ: MUZOREWA PRESS CONFERENCE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT REPLY

REF: LIBREVILLE 1631

SUMMARY: MUZOREWA AND PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) SPOKESMAN TRADED CHARGES IN SEPARATE JUNE 30 PRESS CONFERENCES, WITH BISHOP CLAIMING OAU MAJORITY OPPOSED TO EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION FOR PF. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JUNE 30 PRESS CONFERENCE, BISHOP MUZOREWA STATED THAT ANC WILL ASK OAU TO SET UP COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE AND STUDY ON THE SPOT ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AND MALTREATMENT OF ANC CADRE IN STATES NEIGHBORING ZIMBABWE (EXCLUDING BOTSWANA). MUZOREWA CHARGED THAT QTE HUNDREDS UNQTE OF ANC SUPPORTERS ARE IMPRISONED, TORTURED, AND VICTIMIZED FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF ANC, BUT COULD ONLY GIVE EXAMPLE OF ZAMBIAN EXPULSION TO TANZANIA OF ANC CADRE PREVIOUSLY DETAINED IN ZAMBIA. BISHOP REFUSED ANSWER QUESTION AS TO NUMBER OF CADRE INVOLVED.

2. MUZOREWA ASSERTED THAT ANC HAS CADRES FIGHTING WITHIN
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ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THAT, SINCE ANC IS AS INVOLVED IN LIBERATION SGRUGGLE AS OTHER GROUPS, ANC SHOULD NOT BE QTE DERECOGNIZED UNQTE BY OAU. HE SAID ANC HAS GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT AT LIBREVILLE, PROBABLY MAJORITY, AS MANY AFRICAN STATES ARE NOT INVOLVED IN QTE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP POLITICS UNQTE OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT ROBERT MUGABE'S REPORTED UNHAPPINESS OVER SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NKOMO, BISHOP ELATEDLY STATED THAT IF REPORT TRUE HE IS GLAD TO SEE THAT HIS BROTHER MUGABE HAD SEEN LIGHT AND RECOGNIZED THAT HE HAD BEEN USED AS PAWN.

4. MUZORWA LAS NON-COMMITTAL ON QUESTION OF HIS JOINING FORCES WITH SITHOLE AND SUGGESTED THAT PRESS POSE QUESTION TO SITHOLE. HE DID, HOWEVER, APPLAUD GHANAIAAN EFFORTS TO ATTEMPT REUNIFY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

5. MUZOREWA REFERRED TO PATRIOTIC FRONT (WITHOUT CALLING IT BY NAME) AS COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENT WHICH ENCOURAGED DIVISION AND WHICH DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ANC. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY HIS SUPPORTERS THAT LIFE UNDER SMITH WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO LIFE UNDER NKOMO, BISHOP SAID THAT QTE LIFE UNDER NKOMO WOULD BE AS MUCH HELL AS LIVING UNDER SMITH UNQTE AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHICH WOULD BE WORSE.

6. MUZOREWA CONCLUDED THAT ONLY WAY TO END SUFFERING IN ZAMBABWE WOULD BE IMMEDIATE CAPITULATION OF SMITH AND ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE TO TRANSFER POWER. HE OPINED THAT REFERENDUM COULD BE HELD IN TWO WEEKS
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WITH INDEPENDENCE TO FOLLOW IN SIX MONTHS. HE ENVISAGED ZIMBABWE UNDER ANC AS DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD WORK FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY WHERE NO ONE (QTE WHITES, YELLOWS, ETC. UNQTE) NEED BE AFRAID.

7. IN COUNTER STATEMENT, GEORGE SILUNDIKA OF PATRIOTIC FRONT DENIED THAT PF IS HOLDING ANY ZIMBABWEANS, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWERS OF BISHOP MUZOREWA, AGAINST THEIR WILL. FRONT IS TOO INVOLVED IN ARMED STRUGGLE TO SPARE A MOMEN TO DO SO, HE SAID, AND DENOUNCED MUZOREWA IN TURN FOR QTE ENDLESS DEALS UNQTE WITH SMITH. STATEMENT CLOSED BY CHARGING BISHOP WITH NAKED AND USELESS ATTEMPTS TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN FRONT LINE STATES AND PATRIOTIC FRONT AND CHARACTERIZING MUZOREWA CAMPAIGN FOR OAU COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AS QTE PAPER DREAM UNQTE.

8. COMMENT: MUZOREWA APPREARED MILDLY OPTIMISTIC IN PUBLIC ON PATRIOTIC FRONT ISSUE, THOUGH HIS FOLLOWERS ARE REPORTEDLY FAR LESS CONFIDENT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. BISHOP SEEMED LESS HOPEFUL OF POSITIVE RESULTS ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR OAU COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. STEIGMAN

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